

IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

In re the Matter of:

Adam Hoffman, Complainant

And Concerning:

Angela Burrows, in the Capacity as
Candidate for Angie Burrows for Bremer
County Treasurer, Respondent

FC 2022-07 and FC 2022-10

Order Reprimanding and
Issuing Civil Penalty

THESE MATTERS come before the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board this 17th day of November, 2022, to consider the issuance of a reprimand and civil penalty.

On May 24, 2022, Adam Hoffman filed FC 2022-07 alleging that Angela Burrows violated Iowa Code chapter 68A on or about May 12, 2022.¹ Complainant alleged that Respondent:

- (1) Did not file a Statement of Organization.
- (2) Did not file a campaign disclosure report for the period of January 1, 2022, to May 14, 2022.
- (3) Used an improper attribution statement on two newspaper advertisements.
- (4) Improperly placed campaign signs in right-of-way areas.

On May 31, 2022, Adam Hoffman filed FC 2022-10 further alleging that Respondent:

- (1) Filed an inaccurate Statement of Organization by listing the 2022 primary election date as occurring on June 8, 2022, when it was held on June 7, 2022.

Complainant also reiterated the aforementioned allegations from FC 2022-07. On September 22, 2022, the Board voted to accept FC 2022-07 and FC 2022-10. Due to the identical parties and subject matters, it is appropriate to consolidate FC 2022-07 and FC 2022-10 for the purposes of this Order.

Complainant filed her Statement of Organization on May 31, 2022. Complainant's subsequent campaign disclosure report indicates the Statement of Organization should have been filed no later than May 25, 2022. Also on May 31, Board staff contacted Respondent to inform her of the incorrect election date listed on the Statement of Organization. The Statement of Organization was amended by Respondent on May 31, 2022, to reflect the correct election date.

¹ Complainant and Respondent were both candidates for the Republican nomination for Bremer County Treasurer in the June 7, 2022, primary election. Respondent lost the primary election and dissolved her committee on July 18, 2022.

Upon review of Complainant's campaign disclosure report due July 19, 2022, there is no indication that she was required to file a report covering the period of January 1, 2022, to May 14, 2022, as she had not crossed the threshold of \$1,000 in financial activity established by Iowa Code section 68A.201.

Complainant provided photographic evidence of two newspaper advertisements placed by Respondent. The first includes no visible attribution statement.² The second includes an incorrect attribution statement which states "Paid for by the Committee to Elect Angela Burrows."³

Iowa Code section 68A.405 requires published materials that expressly advocate for a candidate include a "Paid for by" statement and the full name of the committee registered with the Board. In this matter, the attribution statement should have been "Paid for by Angie Burrows for Bremer County Treasurer." In response to the incorrect attribution statements, Respondent placed correction notices in the same newspaper on May 31, 2022.⁴

Iowa Code section 68A.406(2)(a)(1) states, in part, that campaign signs shall not be placed on property considered the public right-of-way. Right-of-way is generally defined as including the area between a city sidewalk and a street.⁵ Photographic evidence provided by Complainant shows two signs improperly placed, and an additional two that were potentially improperly placed.⁶ Respondent stated to Board staff that she was not responsible for the placement of the signs at issue and that the signs were placed by the individual homeowners.

For the aforementioned reasons, we find probable cause to believe Angela Burrows, in her capacity as Candidate for Angie Burrows for Bremer County Treasurer violated Iowa Code section 68A.405 and Iowa Administrative Code rule 4.38 by failing to include the required attribution statement on two newspaper advertisements.

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code rule 351-9.4(2), the Board elects to handle this matter by administrative resolution rather than through a contested case proceeding.

IT IS SO ORDERED: In her capacity as Candidate for Angie Burrows for Bremer County Treasurer, Angela Burrows is hereby reprimanded and ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$100. Upon payment of the penalty, FC 2022-07 and FC 2022-10 are dismissed as administratively resolved pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code rule 9.4(2).

² See Attachment A.

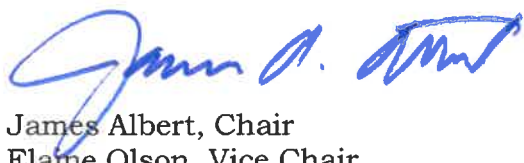
³ See Attachment B.

⁴ See Attachment C.

⁵ <https://iowadot.gov/rightofway/Right-of-way-sections>

⁶ See Attachment D.

BY DIRECTION AND VOTE OF THE BOARD:



James Albert, Chair
Elaine Olson, Vice Chair
Jonathan Roos
Mary Rueter
Daniel Jessop
Leah Rodenberg

SUBMITTED BY:

Zachary S. Goodrich, Executive Director and Legal Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

This document was sent by electronic mail on this 18th day of November, 2022, to:

Adam Hoffman, Complainant
Angela Burrows, Respondent

Attachment A


ELECT

**ANGELA
BURROWS**FOR BREMER COUNTY
TREASURER**Vote for:**

- ★ A 20 year veteran employee of the Bremer County Treasurer's office
- ★ A 40 year history of serving the public
- ★ A background in banking and lending
- ★ A vested interest in the financial future of Bremer County

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2****EXPERIENCE MAKES
★CENTS★**

VOTE
ANGELA
BURROWS
FOR
Bremer County
Treasurer



When you vote for Angela Burrows you vote for an individual with a vested interest in the financial future of Bremer County.

✓ **Experience** ✓ **Commitment**
✓ **20 Year Veteran Employee of Bremer County Treasure Office**
✓ **40 years of Public Customer Service**

Vote June 7th 2022
Early voting beginning May 18, 2022
at Auditors Office - Waverly, Iowa

EXPERIENCE
MAKES CENTS

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Angela Burrows

Attachment B

CORRECTION & CLARIFICATION

On April 5, 2022 the ad for Angela Burrows for Bremer county treasurer did not state who paid for it. The ad that ran in Bremer County Independent was paid for by Angie Burrows for Bremer County Treasurer.

On May 12, 2022 the ad for Angela Burrows for Bremer county treasurer did not state who paid for it. The ad that ran in Waverly Democrat was paid for by Angie Burrows for Bremer County Treasurer.

Paid for Angie Burrows for Bremer County Treasurer.

RECEIPT		DATE <u>5/31/22</u>	No. 120086
RECEIVED FROM <u>Angela Burrows</u>		\$ <u>50.00</u>	
<u>fifty and 00/100</u>		DOLLARS	
<input type="radio"/> FOR RENT		<u>Correction</u>	
<input type="radio"/> FOR		<u>#1268</u>	
ACCOUNT		<input type="radio"/> CASH	FROM
PAYMENT	<u>50.00</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> CHECK	TO
BAL. DUE		<input type="radio"/> MONEY ORDER	BY <u>[Signature]</u>
		<input type="radio"/> CREDIT CARD	

3-11

Attachment C



Attachment D

